

Lesher Dollar Book Signing in Victor

The Victor Lowell Thomas Museum will host a book signing for the newly released *Forgotten Colorado Silver, Joseph Lesher's Defiant Silver Coins*, Saturday, Aug. 12, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. One of the authors, Kenneth Hallenbeck will be at the museum to sign books and talk about the Lesher dollars that were minted in the early 1900s.

The event is free and open to the public but seating is limited.

The book highlights Lesher's life and creation of his unique coins. At the turn of the 20th Century Lesher, a Victor miner, attempted to raise the price of silver by privately minting octagonal Referendum souvenir medals, also known as Lesher dollars. The coins had values of \$1.25 and \$1 of silver. They were common in Victor and Cripple Creek where several merchants used them as trade tokens. Attracting the attention of the Secret Service, Lesher placed them in circulation in 1900 and 1901. Today, the coins are worth more than \$1000 each. The book tells Lesher's story, his private mint in Victor, and the merchants who carried his coins.

Hallenbeck, a former insurance executive and owner of Hallenbeck Coin Gallery, Inc. in Colorado Springs, is one of three authors. The book is also authored by Andna G. Wilde Jr. and Robert D. Leonard Jr.

Funds from the sale of this book as well as other gift shop purchases go toward the museum's building renovation fund.

For more information, visit VictorColorado.com, email museum@victorcolorado.com or call 719-689-5509.